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12 December 1957

MEMORANDUM FOR: Project Director

SUBJECT : Visit to Strategic Air Command

1. As planned, I spent Wednesday, 11 December, along with seventeen other CIA personnel at SAC. The morning was devoted to an operations briefing in which we were exposed to the underground headquarters and operations rooms for SAC activities in the event of an alert and hostilities. Very impressive to say the least. The afternoon was devoted to a briefing in intelligence--overflight photography, [REDACTED] and estimates.

2. Because of the heterogeneous group and the limited amount of time available because of the schedule of briefings, I did not get to hold discussions with the responsible people on the use of TALENT materials though many questions came to my mind. Nor did I get to see their processing facility from which they make four duplicate negatives for SAC commands from the duplicate positive which they get from Eastman. Colonel Condon, who is responsible for setting up the briefings, invited me to come back when we might have adequate time for discussions on TALENT matters. I would like very much to do this, and unless you object, I plan to arrange such an occasion in concert with Colonel Macia early in January.

3. You will, I think, be pleased to know that SAC intelligence is vigorously exploiting TALENT materials for their needs. They are making rapid progress in meeting requirements from Plans for revision of target folders. There have been extensive changes in priority of targets for bombs as a result of AQUATONE photography. Some targets have been dropped, some added.


4. From one of the briefing sessions, I learned that SAC now has twenty-six U-2s, a fact I presume you have been aware of.

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5. I was very much surprised that we were given a briefing of SAC's overflight accomplishments. I had no idea that they had covered as much of the Arctic bases as they indicated nor was I aware of the Far Eastern overflights in recent weeks.

6. I have asked HTAUTOMAT for a full report along with dates of missions, notifications, requests for material, and dates of delivery on SAC overflight photography (which, as you know, is in the SENSINT system under AFCIN control). When I get this report, if it reads like I think it will, I plan to sit down with Herb Macia and see what can be done to expedite matters. In view of AFCIN demands for service in connection with AQUATONE photography (which generally I would defend even if I don't care for the attitude they use in placing their demands) and the Agency's prompt response thereto, I feel we are in a position to request reciprocity.

  
JAMES O. REBER  
CIA/TALENT Control Officer

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- 1-Project Director
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